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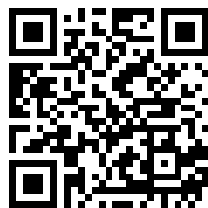
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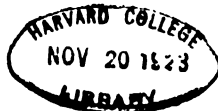
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BULLETIN OF THE *Modern Humanities Research Association*

OCTOBER

1923

NUMBER 20

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

SIGNOR BENEDETTO CROCE has honoured the Association by accepting the Presidency for the year 1923-4.

TREASURER'S NOTES

¶ With the arrival of this number the subscription (7s. 6d.) for 1923-4 falls due and should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Professor Mawer, The University, Liverpool.

¶ Members are invited to contribute to the Capital Fund on remitting their subscription.

¶ The Hon. Treasurer has pleasure in acknowledging the following contributions to the Capital Fund: Lt.-Col. J. E. Spingarn, £5. 5s.; L. B. Walton, Esq., 10s.; Dr H. Smith, 6s.; Miss M. Grey Skipworth, 5s.; Other small sums, 2s. Total: £6. 8s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1923

Our third annual *Bibliography of English Language and Literature*, which has just appeared, is, like the second issue, considerably larger than its predecessor, and Miss Paues and her collaborators deserve the congratulations of all members. The 1922 Bibliography had in all 2119 entries; the present issue has 2943, together with an index of authors and a list of periodicals searched. The price of the book is 3s. 3d. (post free from the Hon. Treasurer only) to members; 6s. through any bookseller to non-members. We hope that the sales this year will be equal to those of the last two years put together, and in this connection remind members that they may order the 1921 and 1922 issues together with that for 1923 at the prices of 1s. 8d. and 3s. 2d. (post free) respectively.

It would save the Association a great deal of trouble and strengthen its hands for the future if, in ordering their Bibliography for the present year, members would give us a standing order for future years.

EDITORIAL

Death has taken a heavy toll of British scholarship during the last few months, and the ranks of our own members have been sadly depleted. To the loss of Dr Oelsner, of which we wrote last quarter, and of Dr Henry Bradley, of whom a memorial notice appears in this number, we have now to add that of Professor W. P. Ker, President of the Association, 1921-2, who died of heart failure while climbing in Italy on July 17. We publish a tribute to Professor Ker on another page.

* * *

Professor A. T. Strong, of the University of Adelaide, has been appointed Correspondent of the Association for Adelaide.

* *

Dr Ernest Bernbaum writes that he is completing a study in Comparative Literature and will be in London for the purpose of studying in the British Museum during the next few months, and also plans to visit the libraries of Paris, Vienna and Copenhagen. He would like to meet any members of the M.H.R.A. living in these cities. His address in London after August 8th will be c/o Messrs Baring Bros. and Co., 8 Bishopsgate, E.C.

* *

Professor R. S. Crane sends us a copy of *Bulletin* No. 3 of the newly-formed Research Group on Literary Tendencies in the later eighteenth century. A fourth Bulletin is to be distributed to members of the Group in October 1923.

* *

We learn that Mr James Boyd, B.A., B.Litt. (Oxon.), who has been appointed Professor of German in Cape Town University, will publish his B.Litt. thesis on "Goethe's Knowledge of English Literature" early next year. Another young Oxford Graduate is preparing a dissertation on "Goethe's Knowledge of French and Italian Literature."

* *

We remind members that the last day for sending in applications for the publication of their work in our series this year is October 30.

BENEDETTO CROCE

PRESIDENT M.H.R.A., 1923-4.

Benedetto Croce on reaching his fifties sketched his intellectual history for the benefit of a hundred chosen friends. Thanks to the *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale* (vol. XXVI, 1, Jan. 1919) such a sketch has been rendered accessible to a wide public and it is thus possible to all, not only to study and admire the works of the philosopher of Abbruzzo but to trace the development of his stupendous intellectual activity.

The main points of Croce's idealistic philosophy are so well known through his own works which have been translated into all the principal languages and, nearer home, through the interpretative works of Professor Wildon Carr and Signor Piccoli, that it would be as superfluous as it would be impossible to summarise them here. It is particularly interesting to note how clear and logical Croce's intellectual history has been, and how strikingly the intellectual leadership passed into his hands once he had reached the turning point of his intellectual development.

A born bibliophile, an investigator of literary and historical problems, of restless activity and unfailing lucidity, he acquired an early reputation among scholars who could scarcely keep pace with his rapid acquisition of learning and the range of his literary output. But soon he felt dissatisfied with the

scope and the results of his labours; he felt the need, dimly at first and by degrees more clearly, to probe deeper into the working of his own intellect, to trace the basis of his own judgments, and, after a relatively short but intense period of travail, the seeds which had been sown at first by the reading of De Sanctis and later the study of many philosophical works and profound meditation, bore fruit in his first essay upon *L'estetica come scienza dell'espressione* etc.

This intellectual travail was paralleled by the novelty of his theory; he had thought at first that by writing this philosophical essay he would have satisfied the requirements of his "spirit" and, as he says, "emptied himself of philosophy." He was impelled on the contrary to answer for himself a series of philosophical problems which suggested themselves to him. Even when he had further developed his *Aesthetics* he could not rest until he had framed that first philosophical work in a complete system, and thus gradually, with characteristic tranquillity of progress, he accomplished his self-allotted task with the works which he has grouped under the general title "*Filosofia come scienza dello spirito*" and the critical monographs by which he exemplified and illustrated his method.

One would say that all the researches of his youth, his dissatisfaction with them, the *tedium vitae* by which he was assailed, the domestic losses which he suffered, all led up to that work of "*chiarificazione*" which cost him the greatest effort, his *Aesthetics*. All that which came later may be considered a complement, including perhaps even his treatise on the *Theory of historiography* which contains so much that is new and stimulating to thought.

And truly the generation of Italians which grew to intellectual life after 1900 has been mainly influenced by Croce as a critic and a theorist of aesthetics. If one attempted a conspectus of literary studies in Italy before and after 1900 one would have to realize that about 1900 the intellectual atmosphere has changed. There prevailed before that date pure erudition and historical criticism, solid, barren and self-contained, with a few attempts at imitating Carducci; later instead Croce and his aesthetics had full sway. It would be too much to say that all his followers have been worthy of their leader, that they all had the intellectual qualities and philosophic preparation which would have been required, and the ultimate results of so great an innovation will needs have to be evaluated in the years to come; but so much is at any rate certain: within the space of some twenty odd years there took place in Italy a profound intellectual revolution. Philosophy which had been discarded and despised and had at last taken the shape of a rigid positivism, became the principal goal of the study of many, and the mainspring of all forms of literary output: positivism gave way to idealism. And whatever qualifications may be suggested by caution it is certain that the cause and origin of so great a revolution are to be traced to Croce and his works. The change has been so profound that it has left its mark on the dictionary by rendering of common use such words as "*intuizione, espressione, superamento, chiarificazione*" etc. which were rarely used before or had a far less technical meaning.

It has not been granted to many philosophers to start so rapid and all pervading a revolution in the intellectual outlook of a great people. But more must be credited to Croce. His movement was started from Naples, rapidly reached Florence and soon the whole of Italy; but there are no boundaries in the world of thought. Croce's theories and ideas are now found in works

which have been written in all parts and languages of Europe, America and Asia; they are found in serious books and scientific records, just as echoes may be traced in novels, in short stories, in grave journals and humorous periodicals, in the columns of the *Times* as well as in the pages of *Punch*. The M.H.R.A. could not hope for a more representative President and is proud to have forestalled the oldest University of the Kingdom in paying homage to Benedetto Croce.

F.

HENRY BRADLEY

3 DEC., 1845—23 MAY, 1923.

In little more than a year English scholarship and letters have suffered three grievous losses. By the death on May 23rd of Dr Henry Bradley we lost not only one of the first scholars of our time, and an authority on the English language who had achieved a position of unique eminence and supremacy, but one of the widest known and most loved of personalities who had made a deep impression on the imagination of all students of English. In spite of his nearly seventy-eight years his death came as an unexpected blow, so much had one come to think of "Bradley" as a monument that would ever tower upon the horizon, living and active yet perennial and unchanged, a mind possessed of a youth and vigour superior to the body's infirmities. Now one more editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, once "New" now old-established though unfinished treasure-house, has laid down the pen in the midst of his work, leaving in its pages his own chief monument and the principal record of those brilliant qualities upon which his fame rests.

Others that knew him longer and better have already written in his praise and to one of the younger generation, that counts itself supremely fortunate in having known something of Bradley's last years of undiminished energy, little remains save to offer a more slender tribute to the name that will rank among the foremost in scholarship and philology in either the nineteenth or the present century.

The Making of English has travelled far and come into some strange hands; long ago it penetrated here and there even into the fastnesses of "classical sides." To one who once knew only this of all his work, and pictured its author as a young enthusiast, there remains a vivid memory of seeing for the first time from far down the hall the grey beard of Bradley at Exeter high-table in the days before Magdalen claimed him. To see him working in the Dictionary Room at the Old Ashmolean and to work for a time under his wise and kindly hand was a privilege not at that time looked for.

It was at the Dictionary Room that one discovered a part of his secret in the wholehearted delight in his work that, when in health, he preserved so fresh beyond the term of seventy years. There it appeared that his delight in the *mugae*, the jests, the minor hunts and *tours-de-force* of English studies, was no chance characteristic unrelated to the whole: all his work seemed to be to him a noble and absorbing game played with all his faculties by one who had a complete control over its technique and a complete knowledge of its complex rules; it seemed that from the beginning he must have played with zest and with consummate ease. To praise of his achievement and self-carven career he objected: "What I have done is to do what I most like doing, and to work at the work I care for." For this reason Bradley who in his own line had been accorded a pedestal, of an eminence that sometimes lifts the idol somewhat out of the reach of the supplicant, was one of the most kindly and

friendly of men to even the merest beginner who in any small degree shared his enthusiasm; willing to talk, to teach and advise; to communicate his delight in discoveries, smaller or greater, of his own or others' making; to jest or cap a jest with enjoyment.

Always desirous of finding matter for his judicious and discriminating praise, praise that was untinged with condescension, he was yet gifted with an uncanny instinct, of which he himself sometimes humorously complained, which led his hawklike eye unerringly, even if sometimes unwillingly, straight to omissions or defects, even the most minute, in work that was submitted to him, whether in a dictionary article for revision, or in manuscript or printed work for his comment. He seemed to have only to open a "complete" glossary to a text to divine the words that had somehow or other escaped record.

On advice and criticism he lavished no little time, and, great as is the body of work that he has left—in the Dictionary; in articles to learned periodicals; in his reviews of books, that took shape in often memorable contributions to the old *Academy* and *Athenæum*, to the *Modern Language Review*, and to other papers—much remains unrecorded, his personal influence, his words and letters of help and counsel that have left many debtors.

The memory of more recent years recalls with a sense of great loss his piled table in the Dictionary Room; and many, whether occasional visitors, or workers in that great dusty workshop, that brownest of brown studies, preserve a picture of him as he sat writing there, glimpses of him momentarily held in thought, with eyes looking into the grey shadows of the roof, pen poised in the air to descend at last and fix a sentence or a paragraph complete and rounded, without blot or erasure, on the paper before him. His figure, with head bowed forward and eyes on the ground, was pleasantly familiar to many as he went northward from the Old Ashmolean, crossing the road as if hurried by some fitful wind over thoroughfares and round corners in defiance of traffic, so that more than one heart missed a beat in fear lest some of the more than usually heedless of the motor-vehicles invading Oxford with noise and evil odour should rob us even earlier of what we have now lost. It was thus in legend that he wrote articles and books walking in thought up the Woodstock Road and in contemplation back. As permanent a feature of Oxford as its works of stone he came to seem, as grey and venerable yet as strong to last as the walls of a college, as learned as its library; and now to some Oxford seems as strangely altered as if one of its chief monuments had been lifted away at night by inexorable hands leaving an emptiness and an un replenishable blank.

úþwita sceal	ealðgesægenum
fród fyrgewritum	féolan georne;
hár ond hygegléaw	hord scéawian
worda ond reorda,	wide geond eorþan
snyttro sécan,	sméaþoncol mon;
wisdóme þéon,	wunian on áre,
rúna rédan,	rincas lérán,
oþþæt scír metod	to gesceap-hwile
hine ellor aciegþ	eard gesécan.
Ða felaléof féreþ	on fréan wære,
werum bewópen	woruldfreondum,
léodwita lípost	ond lárgeornost,
démæna gedéfast	ond deóphýdgost.

J. R. R. T.

WILLIAM PATON KER

With the sudden death of Professor William Paton Ker at Macugnaga in the Alps on July 17, the Modern Humanities Research Association has to deplore the loss of its fourth President. Ker was born at Glasgow in 1855, and, after an academic apprenticeship at Cardiff, became Quain Professor of English Literature at University College, London, holding the chair from 1899 to his retiral last year. The University of London owed, in the difficult years of its transition, a deep debt to him; none aided it more steadily and helpfully towards the realisation of its aim to become the great "research" centre of the Empire. In 1920 Oxford put the crown to Ker's academic career by appointing him her Professor of Poetry.

It would be difficult to name another British scholar of our time who had a wider knowledge of European literatures outside his own than Ker; more particularly, his sympathies went out to the literatures of the South of Europe and of the Scandinavian North. At the time of his death he was still Director of the Scandinavian Department of the University of London. Emphatically an open-air scholar, a lover of travel, of moor and mountain, Ker was probably always happiest in the company of unbookish people. His love for the natural and the primitive, for poetry undefiled by over-civilisation, drew him to the ballad—the field where his studies were most fruitful—and to the middle ages. But no mediaevalist could have been less burdened by mere antiquarianism and the philology of the schools than Ker; the philology he loved was the who was wed to Mercury. He had little patience with the myopic kind of researcher, either in language or literature, who cannot see beyond his facts; he never lost an opportunity of insisting that, everywhere and in all times, it is the "Humanities" that matter, not the "Research." But Ker's literary interests knew no barriers; he could be as enlightening and stimulating on the eighteenth century and on modern, indeed, quite modern literature as on the "golden middle age"; and his knowledge here was quite as astonishing in its breadth and accuracy.

It is to be regretted that Ker put so little of his vast stores of learning into writing. His first book, *Epic and Romance*, did not appear until 1899, when he was already over forty; but *Epic and Romance* has long been regarded as a classic. His volumes on *The Dark Ages* (1904) and *English Mediaeval Literature* (1905) are admirable and indispensable surveys of wide fields; but perhaps the cream of his mind is to be found in his less formal studies, essays and lectures, where his caustic wit and fine imagination found freer play. These he collected in *Essays on Mediaeval Literature* (1905), and in the volume entitled *The Art of Poetry*, which appeared a few days after his death. But there is a great deal more of high value scattered through periodicals and societies' transactions. A collection of these papers was to have been one of the first fruits of his leisure. It is to be hoped some other hand will speedily make good this promise.

J. G. R.

MODERN HUMANITIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL WORK OF MEMBERS

The Modern Humanities Research Association proposes every year to publish one or more volumes of a series of Studies involving Original Research to be contributed by its members. It hopes by so doing to aid some who for financial reasons would otherwise be unable to publish the results of their researches: it will be prepared to consider suggestions from members who are willing to contribute a part of the cost as well as from those who are unable to do so.

The following conditions have been drawn up for the session 1923-4:

(1) A preliminary letter must be in every case sent to the Hon. Secretary not later than October 30th, 1923, describing the nature and length of the work in question and enclosing a statement from at least one person acquainted with it as to its scholarly character. No manuscript is to be sent until definite instructions to that effect are given.

(2) The work submitted may be written in any language, and no condition as to its nature is laid down other than that it should come within the aim and scope of the Association.

(3) Only applications from members of the Modern Humanities Research Association will be considered.

(4) All applications will be submitted to the Publications Sub-Committee of the Association.

(5) Such manuscripts as it asks for will be judged by a small committee of experts appointed by the Association.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America. Edited by Carleton Brown. Vol. xxxviii, No. 2, June, 1923.

English Studies. A Journal of English Letters and Philology. Edited by E. Kruisinga, P. J. H. Schut and R. W. Zandvoort Vol. v, Nos. 3-4, June-August, 1923.

NOTE.—Members who will send their subscriptions to the *Modern Language Review* for 1924 (15s.) with their annual subscription (7s. 6d.) will greatly help the Publications Committee and the Treasurer.

J.-J. ROUSSEAU'S LETTERS

GENEVA, September 5th, 1923.

To the Editor of the *Bulletin*.

SIR,

I shall be much obliged if I may take advantage of the hospitality of your columns to make it known to the British Public, especially to owners of literary documents and to Librarians, that as Hon. Secretary of the "Société J.-J. Rousseau" (Geneva) and editor of its "Annales" for 15 years, I have been asked by that Society to prepare for the press a complete edition of Rousseau's letters. The work will be published by Hachette in the well-known series "Collection des Grands Ecrivains," and arrangements have been made for it to be completed in twenty octavo volumes.

I need not lay stress upon the interest of the undertaking, nor emphasise the desirability of the publication being as complete as possible. I should therefore be very much obliged for any communication on the subject from those who possess or know of letters of J.-J. Rousseau in Great Britain, and most grateful if the owners and Librarians would be good enough to offer me any suggestion or information as to what steps should be taken to secure authentic copies or preferably photographs of the originals. My friend, Professor G. Rudler, of Oxford University, 18 Bradmore Road, Oxford, is prepared to have copies made at his home, or at the Bodleian or Taylorian Libraries, under his personal supervision. The greatest care would be taken either by him or by me of all papers lent. They would be returned in the shortest possible time and gratefully acknowledged in the edition.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALEXIS FRANÇOIS,

Docteur ès Lettres, Professor of the University of Geneva,
8 Florissant, Geneva (Switzerland).

AIMS AND WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION

FOUNDATION. The Modern Humanities Research Association was founded at Cambridge on June 1st, 1918, and numbers at present 800 members. Its main object is the encouragement of advanced study in Modern Languages and Literatures by co-operation, through correspondence, personal intercourse, the interchange of information and counsel, and financial support for students engaged in research. The Association aims at improving and facilitating means and methods, and seeks such a co-ordination of isolated effort that those interested or engaged in the same branch of research shall be kept informed of each other's work, and that unnecessary duplication of energy shall be avoided.

MEMBERSHIP. Membership is open to graduates (and persons of the standing of graduate) of all Universities, British and Foreign; to other persons, at the discretion of the Committee; and to approved institutions and associations.

SUBSCRIPTION. The minimum annual subscription is 7s. 6d. and should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer, Professor Allen Mawer, The University, Liverpool. A single payment of £5. 5s. entitles to life membership. Perpetual membership (for institutions and associations), £10. 10s.

FEDERATED BODIES. The Association is federated to the Modern Language Associations of England and America, and any member may join the latter Association by paying the reduced subscription of 10s. 6d. through its Hon. Treasurer.

PROSPECTUS. The Hon. Secretary, Professor E. Allison Peers, The University, Liverpool, will be glad to send to any non-member who is interested in Modern Language Research a copy of the prospectus explaining the aims and constitution of the Association.

CAPITAL FUND. It is particularly desired to draw the attention of members to the Capital Fund, founded to enable the Association to carry into effect some of its most urgent schemes. The Committee appeals to all members who have not yet done so to make a special contribution, large or small, to this Fund, preferably a guarantee for five years.

